

## Diplomatic exodus from Kabul

LONDON (R) — Britain and Japan joined an exodus of foreign diplomats from Kabul Friday as the Soviet-backed government accused Western countries of trying to undermine confidence in it. On Thursday, the United States said it was evacuating its embassy in Afghanistan where rebel clashes with government troops are mounting. The withdrawals were in line with a general departure of diplomats on security grounds. The last Soviet troops are scheduled to leave Afghanistan on Feb. 15. Only three Japanese diplomats were based in Kabul when the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo announced the closure. Most embassies and aid agencies had already cut their staff or sent home dependents during a period of heavy rocket attacks on Kabul last August. Pressure has been increasing for the withdrawal of remaining diplomats mainly because of fears the Afghan army would be unable to stop the Mujahideen guerrillas from shutting Kabul airport after the Soviets quit. The only land route still open is the Salang Highway towards the Soviet border which passes through mountains held by guerrillas.

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His Majesty King Hussein Thursday confers with Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg in Aqaba (Petra photo)

## Stoltenberg ends visit after Aqaba audience

AMMAN (J.T.) — Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg left Amman Friday for Cairo at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan during which he was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein in Aqaba.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the King and Stoltenberg reviewed the European role in promoting the Middle East peace process and the European stand with regard to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

During the meeting, King Hussein stressed the importance of the European role in convening an international conference to resolve the Palestinian issue in all its aspects, now that the PLO has presented its genuine orientation towards a just and comprehensive solution, Petra said.

The agency quoted the Norwegian minister as paying tribute to King Hussein's efforts at all levels to reach security and peace in the region through an international conference.

The minister also referred to the very good relations between Jordan and Norway based on friendship and mutual cooperation.

The meeting in Aqaba was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's special advisor Amer

Khammash and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Following a three-day stay in Cairo, the Norwegian minister is due to fly on to Tunis for a meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

In addition to Stoltenberg, politicians from Denmark and Sweden visit Tunis this weekend for talks with the PLO, highlighting the Scandinavian role in Middle East peace politics.

The three countries, together with Finland, have emerged as key figures in international efforts to draw Israel into a dialogue with the PLO.

Swen Auken, leader of Denmark's opposition Social Democratic Party, was due Friday afternoon and expected to see Arafat, a Danish embassy spokesman said in Tunis.

Arafat will also have talks with two prominent members of Sweden's ruling Social Democratic Party, Scandinavian diplomats said.

The Swedish politicians are Evert Svensson, who chairs a Christian group within the party and has had a longstanding interest in the Middle East, and Karl-Erik Svarberg, president of Sweden's United Nations Association.

## LAST-MINUTE NEWS

### Bush: Too soon for top-level PLO contact

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Friday that the United States was only beginning its relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and that it was too soon to say when a top member of his administration would meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. He said the United States would continue to have a dialogue with the organisation "as long as they stay hooked and stay committed" to principles aimed at negotiating peace with Israel. "I haven't given any thought at all" to when a meeting should be held between Arafat and a top-level U.S. official, Bush told a White House news conference.

### Iraq proclaims new amnesty for Kurds

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey's Foreign Ministry announced Friday that Iraq has proclaimed a new amnesty for the Kurdish refugees who fled to Turkey in August. The announcement said Iraq declared a new amnesty at the urging of Turkey because there were Kurdish refugees who wanted to return to their homeland. The new amnesty will remain in effect until the end of February, the announcement said. Iraq declared an amnesty soon after 60,000 Kurds crossed the joint border into Turkey. The deadline for the first amnesty was Oct. 6.

### Reagan, Bush could be forced to testify

WASHINGTON (R) — The judge in the Iran-contra criminal case said Friday that he has the legal power to force President Bush and former President Reagan to testify at the trial of ex-White House aide Oliver North. But the judge put off any decision on whether to throw out the defense subpoena, which has been challenged by government lawyers as unprecedented. They argued that Reagan and Bush enjoy executive privilege and cannot be forced to testify. "As far as the power of the court to require testimony of Reagan or Bush, I do not think there is any question," Federal Judge Gerhard Gesell ruled from the bench. "I have no doubt of the naked power if I have to use it."

### Taba talks end with no progress

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli-Egyptian talks on the handover of the Red Sea beach of Taba ended without progress Friday as Israel awaited anxiously a planned Cairo declaration on the future of the resort Sunday. Chief Israeli negotiator Reuven Merhav and his Egyptian counterpart Nabil Al Arabi failed even to agree on a date to resume talks, Israeli officials said. Merhav, director-general of Israel's foreign ministry, said he was still waiting to see the text of a planned Cairo decree to extend Egyptian tourist law over a luxury hotel and a holiday village in the 700-metre beachfront.

### Israel told it can use Moscow embassy

TEL AVIV (R) — The Soviet Union has told Israel its consular mission may use the former Israeli embassy building in Moscow, empty since the Kremlin severed ties with the Zionist state in 1967, Israeli officials said Friday. But the Soviet Foreign Ministry told the senior Israeli diplomat in Moscow, Aryeh Levin, the move did not constitute a raising of the status of the consular delegation, which remained under the authority of the Dutch embassy, they said.

### Sinhalese militants kill 47 in 2 days

COLOMBO (AP) — Sinhalese militants shot and killed three people in separate attacks in Sri Lanka, raising the number of deaths blamed on the radicals in the past two days to 47, police said Friday. One of the three people killed was a supporter of the governing United National Party. Alarmed by the increased violence, the government has placed troops on alert across the island nation since Thursday, said officials.

## King optimistic of convening summit

AMMAN (Petra) — Consultations and contacts between Arab leaders are under way to hold an Arab summit conference, since there are good reasons for convening such a meeting soon, His Majesty King Hussein said Thursday.

"I am confident that the current contacts will result in such a meeting among Arab leaders and I have big hopes that such a meeting will be held soon," King Hussein said in statements to reporters shortly before leaving Cairo at the end of talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

"We are optimistic and we continue to work hand in hand to serve the higher Arab interests," the King said. The visit to Cairo, he said, offered him a chance to discuss and review different developments in the Arab region and now stand together confident of the future and hope to carry out our duty as we best have to join in."

Asked what he expects from the new Bush administration in Washington, King Hussein said

that fruitful contacts with Bush administration were bound to take place.

He said that the world was now witnessing a change and there was a clear orientation towards resolving outstanding issues so that world peace and stability can be achieved.

The King said Europe was adopting a very positive and constructive stand which would promote the peace process.

Speaking to reporters before the King's departure, President Mubarak said coordination was continuing on all matters of concern to the Arab Nation in general and Egypt and Jordan in particular.

Muharik said Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen were embarking on plans that could lead to the formation of a united economic bloc. The plan, he said, is not directed against any other Arab state and it is open for all Arab countries to join in.

King Hussein earlier held a meeting with the Egyptian president at Al Qubbah Palace which

was attended at a later stage by prime minister Zaid Rifai and Atef Sidki and other officials.

The two prime ministers held separate talks in the presence of Jordanian and Egyptian ministers and top officials to review measures to enhance bilateral cooperation.

### Call from Bush

While in Cairo, King Hussein received a telephone call from U.S. President George Bush, who thanked the King for his congratulatory cable on his taking office.

Bush said he was looking forward to fruitful cooperation with the King to achieve a just and durable solution for the Middle East problem.

Before going to Cairo King Hussein visited Saudi Arabia and held talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz.

King Hussein and the Jordanian delegation arrived in Aqaba and were received by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Faisal and senior officials.

## 8 Palestinians wounded in W. Bank, Gaza protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded eight Palestinians Friday during protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Villagers at Salfit, near the West Bank city of Nablus set fire to an employment office run by the Israeli "civil administration," sources said. Troops wounded two Palestinians in the ensuing protest.

In the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, troops closed indefinitely a few dozen stores along a street where cars are frequently stoned, sources said.

Soldiers firing to disperse protesters wounded to Palestinians at Gaza's Deir Al Balah refugee camp, two at Sba'i camp and one at Khan Younis, hospital officials said.

An army spokesman said one Palestinian was shot and wounded at Tulkarem camp in the West Bank. He said he had reports of only two others being shot — the two teenagers at Deir Al Balah.

Staff at the luxury American Colony hotel in Arab Jerusalem said police raided the premises earlier in the week and fined seven West Bank employees sleeping there without permits.

Hotel staff said police made similar raids earlier in the 13-month-old Palestinian uprising. The maximum fine for the offence is 500 shekels (\$276).

Staff at Arab Jerusalem's St. John's Hospital said police asked Thursday to check the identity papers of more than 60 workers and told them they would require work permits at some unspecified future date.

Meanwhile, Israeli peace activists rallied at a "tent city" in the Naqeb Desert Friday to protest the jailing of Palestinians without trial, and a cabinet minister called for opening talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Secret PLO contacts"

Also Friday, the Hebrew daily

## Arafat, EEC 'troika' discuss peace conference

MADRID (Agencies) — Pales-

right to exist and opened a dialogue with the United States.

Israel has rejected an international peace conference and called for direct talks with the Arabs.

The PLO leader later had an audience with King Juan Carlos, something not granted when he first visited Madrid 10 years ago.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez said the purpose of Arafat's 24-hour visit was "to inform and be informed," rather than seek tangible results.

Diplomats said Arafat called informally for EEC recognition of Palestine in his talks with the three ministers, known as the "troika," and in a four-hour meeting with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Thursday night.

An Israeli spokesman said the three new were designated to spearhead an EEC Middle East peace initiative launched after the PLO recognised Israel's

The spokesman said in a state-

ment that the talks "will not contribute to peace."

Arafat arrived in the Spanish capital Thursday night from Iraq and went directly to a four-hour working dinner with Gonzalez.

Neither made a statement following the meeting, but a Spanish government spokesman said both men considered 1989 "a very important year" in the search for peace in the Middle East.

Their talks centred on how to start negotiations leading to a peace conference sponsored by the United Nations, and Gonzalez told Arafat the EEC would focus on ways of launching a dialogue based on the Palestinians' right to self-determination and Israel's right to secure borders.

Spanish diplomats said the EEC approach also included withdrawal of Israel from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and respect of human rights.

Fernandez Ordóñez and his

French counterpart Roland Dumas recently visited Israel, and members of the EEC "troika" planned to travel next month to Egypt and Jordan.

They also planned to make contacts with the United States and other members of the U.N. Security Council.

Reports in the Spanish press Friday indicated Spain and the majority of its EEC partners favour self-determination for the Palestinian people and view recognition of a Palestine state as a logical outcome of this process.

But the consensus appeared to be that recognition of a state that does not exercise effective control over its declared territory and inhabitants would be difficult.

Fernandez Ordóñez said the EEC's official position on Palestine would be made public until after a full meeting of the council of foreign ministers in Madrid Feb. 14.

Amal-Hizbullah duels rage despite peace call

BEIRUT (R) — Duels between

rival militia snipers erupted again in South Lebanon Friday, despite a call from Iran's president for them to settle their feud peacefully at talks in Damascus.

Sources in the Amal and Hizbullah (Party of God) militias said sporadic machinegun-fire raked the hill-top village of Jubah, the focus of three weeks of battles.

The firing ignored a call by Iranian President Ali Khamenei for the two sides to end fighting in their year-long struggle for leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shiites.

"I ask all Lebanese brothers to seize these opportunities and halt bloodshed and fighting so that bitter events are not repeated in Lebanon," he said at Friday prayers in Tehran.

Khamenei was referring to a joint Iranian-Syrian drive to reconcile the warring militias at peace talks in Damascus. More than 140 people have been killed and thousands displaced in this month's battles.

Bodies and debris were widely scattered around Lockerbie, where a chunk of the Jumbo jet carved a massive crater, hurling a row of houses and some of their occupants.

A special service for the missing victims will be held in the town's Dryfesdale cemetery Tuesday.

## Al Hussein attends event, underlines attractions of port

## Aqaba hosts 280-km power boat race

AQABA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday attended the Offshore Power Boat Race, organised by the Royal Jordanian Water Skiing and Boating Federation, the Royal Jordanian Coast Guard, the Royal Yachts and the Aquamarine Hotel in cooperation with the Ports Corporation and in coordination with Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The King voiced hope that sport events and youth gathering will held more frequently in Aqaba and that it is a good port in view of its good and pleasant climate.

The King also expressed hope that the whole world know more and more about Jordan, which lies in the heart of the Arab World.

Commenting on the race, King Hussein said the sport event provides an opportunity for Arab youth, particularly youth from the Gulf states, to take part.

The King noted that Aqaba Port was an attraction for tourists and visitors from the Arab World and outside and that it is a good port in view of its good and pleasant climate.

King Hussein pointed out that Jordan had an abundance of antiquities.

He also expressed hope that the whole world know more and more about Jordan, which lies in the heart of the Arab World.

The race was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor and a number of officials and citizens.

## U.N. seeks 'incentives' for Iran-Iraq talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — U.N. mediator Jan Eliasson arrived in Iraq from Iran Friday searching for "new incentives" which might lure the Gulf war foes back to the bargaining table after an 11-week stand-off.

He inspected the Gulf war ceasefire lines in the region and was scheduled to fly by helicopter to Baghdad later for meetings with senior Iraqi leaders, including Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, who returns Friday from a visit to Rome, U.N. officials reported.

Eliasson, Sweden's U.N. ambassador and Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special emissary, said before leaving Tehran: "It is very important to create a new momentum to speed up the trend of future peace talks."

The negotiations began Aug. 25, five days after a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire in the eight-year-old Gulf war took effect.

They broke up in deadlock Nov. 11 after several sessions, with both sides accusing each other of obstructing progress.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Eliasson as saying at Tehran airport that his four days of talks with Prime Minister Hussein Musavi, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and other officials were "very useful and fruitful." He did not elaborate.

Eliasson told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) he discussed the whole range of issues with officials.

Iraq rejects the idea that the waterway should be cleaned of debris before its legal status is resolved.

It says top priority should be given to the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops it claims still occupy 1,000 square kilometres of its western territory.

Amal rejects the idea that the waterway should be cleaned of debris before its legal status is resolved.

Independent sources said they doubted if Amal and Hizbullah could be quickly reconciled as the differences between them were too deep. The two militias are in religious, political and military competition with each other.

One source said it seemed virtually impossible to find a lasting solution despite the apparent determination of Syria and Iran to end the war.

## Shevardnadze due in Pakistan Feb. 4 for crucial Afghan talks

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will hold crucial talks on the Afghan civil war with Pakistani leaders in early February, a Pakistani official said Friday.

Shevardnadze will be the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit Pakistan in more than 20 years, since Soviet Premier Alexi Kosygin visited in the late 1960s, the Foreign Ministry official said.

Shevardnadze is scheduled to make a one-day stop in Islamabad Feb. 4 and meet with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the official said.

The Soviet foreign minister will fly to Islamabad after visiting China from Feb. 2-3.

"We hope our talks with the Soviet leader will pave the way for a peaceful settlement, although the situation on the ground in Afghanistan is depressing," said the spokesman.

Soviet Defence Minister Dimitri Yazov has arrived in Kabul, less than three weeks before the last of his troops are due to complete their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

An aide to Soviet Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov said that Yazov had arrived Wednesday for a working visit which was likely to be brief.

He was expected to meet President Najibullah and Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Kanai, the aide said. He would give no further details.

The last of some 115,000 Soviet soldiers are due to be out of Afghanistan by Feb. 15 under last year's Geneva accord.

Western diplomats said the final stages of the pullout began in early January and some 15-20

The Mujahedeen believe

Kabul will collapse quickly once Soviet troops have pulled out under the Geneva accords brokered by the United Nations last April.

On his return to Moscow, Vorontsov hinted that Soviet troops might stay in Afghanistan beyond the deadline because of continued heavy fighting.

Diplomats in Kabul, however, reported that the Soviet pullout was continuing and that as many as half the 30,000 Soviet troops who had ringed Kabul may have left already.

The rebel alliance, based in the Pakistani city Peshawar, has announced plans to hold a consultative assembly, or "shura" on Feb. 10 to name an interim government.

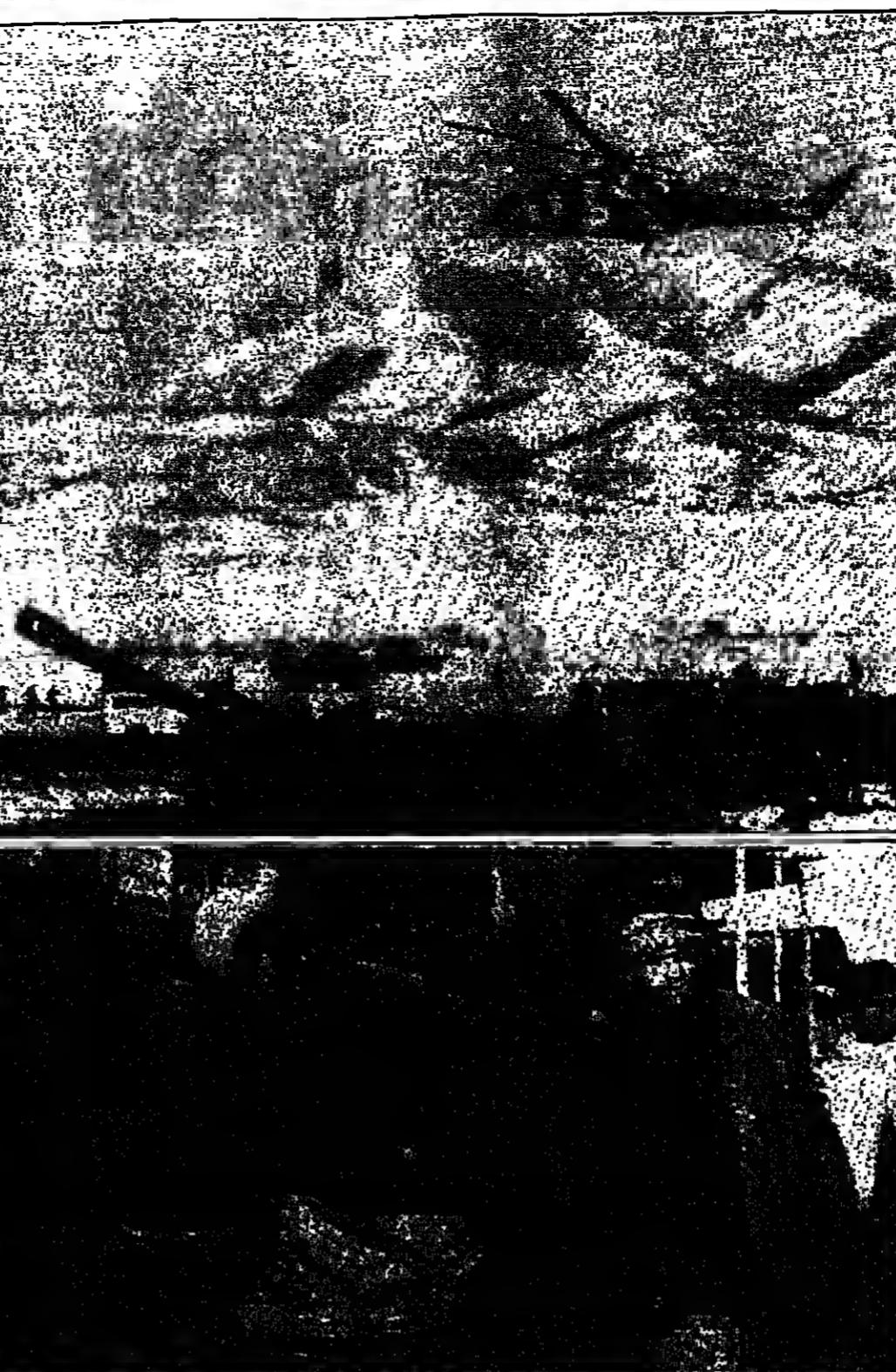
The meeting has been delayed by disputes between the predominantly Sunni Peshawar-based groups and four Iran-based parties of the minority Shi'ite Islamic sect over how many seats should be allotted to the Tehran groups.

Iran's foreign minister has urged Pakistan and Iranian-based Afghan rebels to unite and form a single government in Afghanistan, Tehran Radio said Friday.

The radio also quoted Ali Akbar Velayati as welcoming cooperation between the seven-party alliance based in Pakistan and the coalition based in Tehran.

Velayati was speaking after talks with Gulruddin Hekmatyar, a representative of the Pakistani-based alliance who arrived in Kabul on Thursday.

"He (Velayati) pointed to the need for all Afghan Mujahedeen to unite in forming a government that will conform with the wants of the Afghan people and interests of Islam," the radio said.



A helicopter gunship flies over a convoy of Soviet equipment protected by Afghan soldiers; Kabul residents queue up to buy bread, in short supply because roads into the capital have been cut.

## Iran rejects Bush signal for better ties with U.S.

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei said Friday Tehran did not need ties with the United States, rejecting a signal for better relations by U.S. President George Bush.

"The Iranian nation does not need America. The American president, who has set conditions for resumption of ties with Iran, should know that it is we who have declared conditions," Tehran Radio quoted Khamenei as saying in a Friday prayer sermon.

In his inaugural speech last week, Bush made a passing remark about American hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian militants, making clear that Washington would respond positively to any help leading to their release.

"We have always said that we will restart relations with America at a time when it has given up its arrogant ways," Tehran Radio monitored in Nicosia quoted Khamenei as saying.

"If we who set conditions for the United States because we do not accept American oppression and interference in the affairs of other countries," Khamenei said.

Iranian leaders have demanded the unblocking of Iranian assets frozen in the United States for 10 years as a goodwill gesture from Washington before resumption of ties.

They have also said they would intercede with their Lebanese allies on behalf of the 10 American hostages if the U.S. government used its influence to free four Iranians they say were kidnapped by right-wing militias in Lebanon in 1982.

Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, repeated his rejection of ties with the United States in November, saying Washington acted like a wolf towards a lamb in dealing



Ali Khamenei

with Tehran.

But with the ceasefire in the Gulf war against Iraq in August and the adoption of a more moderate foreign policy by Iran, several articles favouring an improvement in ties with the United States have appeared in the Iranian press.

The Iranian newspaper Ettelaat said Monday Tehran should take up Bush's offer and cooperate with the Americans on the hostage issue.

Nimrodi, an arms dealer, handled the first three shipments of U.S. weapons to Iran in 1985 along with businessman Al Schwimmer and former foreign ministry director David Kinche. The trio was replaced by Nir after he intervened in the affair in the end of December 1985.

Nir, who resigned from his post last year, died in a mysterious plane crash in Mexico in December 1988. North, accused of concealing his efforts on behalf of the contras in Nicaragua, goes on trial next Tuesday.

Nimrodi credited his trio with the release of one American who was held hostage in Lebanon. Another, he said, was released due to Nir's efforts.

## Somalia to free political prisoners

LONDON (R) — Somaliland Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Samantar has announced that his government would unconditionally release all political prisoners as part of a package of reforms in his war-torn country.

Samantar, on an official visit to Britain, invited Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organisation, to witness the liberation of between 250 and 300 detainees and said many would be freed by the end of April.

Amnesty International accepted the offer but said there were well over a thousand political detainees in the country where rebels have been fighting the government for a decade.

Samantar, who has had talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, Wednesday, also offered an amnesty to government opponents abroad.

He told reporters that prisoners to be released would include those held for political reasons since an upsurge of fighting between rebels and government troops in northern Somalia last year.

The war has hampered the distribution of aid to hundreds of thousands of victims of famine and drought in the north.

Samantar said an investigation was under way into alleged human rights abuses in Somalia.

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## Polisario hopes for detailed peace talks

MADRID (R) — A senior Polisario Front representative said in an interview published Friday he hoped the group's second meeting with Morocco's King Hassan would focus on details.

Bachir Mustapha Sayed, number two in the Polisario hierarchy, told *El País* newspaper that discussions were very general at a landmark first meeting earlier this month.

"Now the conversations have to take on a more rigorous tone, to bring about a tangible political agreement either on the whole issue or at least on the essential elements," Sayed said.

Sayed, in Spain to discuss prospects for an end to Polisario's 13-year-old war for independence in the Western Sahara, said Wednesday the next meeting with King Hassan was expected to take place at the end of this month.

"The meeting will produce some new step towards peace," Sayed said.

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## Queen Noor takes part in tree planting celebrations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday took part in tree planting celebrations organised by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) at Yadouneh district south of Amman.

The Queen planted trees along with senior officials and a large number of local residents at a site which the society is turning into a large forest in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

In a speech delivered at the ceremony, the society President Anis Mutasher said that the RSCN was going ahead with plans to plant more forests on lands unsuitable for agriculture with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture which supplies the saplings and other requirements.

The president urged the private organisations, voluntary societies and citizens to join the national efforts and the society's endeavours to plant more trees and help green Jordan by the year 2000.

He said the society has already planted five forests in a number of regions around the capital.

Among those attending the ceremony was Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi.

Other tree planting celebrations took place Thursday at the Taa Al Ali, Umm Al Summaq, Khilda, Sweileh and Zahran dis-



Her Majesty Queen Noor and members of the Royal Family Thursday plant a tree at Yadouneh

tricts within the Amman region. Heads of local councils and representatives of public and private organisations.

A spokesman for the Greater Amman Municipality said that more than 25,000 saplings of fruit and forest trees were planted during the celebrations which were organised by the Amman Municipality.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**ROYAL DECREES:** A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the appointment of Wa'el Touqan as Jordan's non-resident ambassador to Argentina. Another Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the appointment of Dr. Ahmad Hilayel as secretary general of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. (Petra)

**TRAD GETS ADDITIONAL POST:** Information Ministry Secretary General Trad Al Fayed has been given the additional post of Inspector of press and publications. (Petra)

**TARAWNEH MEETS ENVOYS:** Minister of Supply Fayed Al Tarawneh Thursday held separate meetings with Italian Ambassador Francesco de Curten and Spanish Ambassador Ramon Armengol. During the two meetings the talks focused on supply and trade relations and means to bolster them. (Petra)

**PHOTO EXHIBITION:** Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Secretary General Dr. Hani Al Amad Thursday opened a six-day exhibition of old photographs entitled "Under the Clear Sky" of areas in the Middle East at the Royal Cultural Centre. The exhibition includes one hundred photos taken in the 19th century showing Arab markets, houses, archaeological sites, and various forms of social life in the areas extending from Algiers to Damascus. It also includes old photos of Jerusalem, Petra, and the Dead Sea. The exhibition is scheduled to be shown in Irbid and Aqaba. A seminar was also held on the sidelines of the exhibition on the art of photography. (Petra)

**KARAK SEMINAR ON LOCUSTS:** Karak Governorate students Thursday attended a seminar held by Agriculture Department at Al Hussein Secondary Vocational School on means to combat locusts. (Petra)

**AMIN CHAIRS SCOUTS MEETING:** Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Thursday chaired the meeting of the Amman branch administrative board of boy scouts and girl guides. It was decided, during the meeting, that the board hold periodic meetings, and that a committee be formed to study future plans. (Petra)

**CIVIL DEFENCE COURSE:** A seven-day course on civil defence was concluded Thursday in Salt. The course included lectures and exercises on rescue operations, fire extinguishing, and guidance. (Petra)

## Jordan, Iraq discuss sulphur exports via Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The director of the Iraqi sulphur establishment met here Thursday with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan to review the process of transporting Iraqi sulphur to Aqaba for export via the port city.

The Iraqi official, Abdul Sattar Al Safi voiced his government's appreciation to the Jordanian government for the facilities provided for the export process.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Egyptian artist Yassin Ibrahim Mohammad at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of photographic works by Wols (Otto Wolfgang Schulz) at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ The Jordanian plastic art season which includes a general exhibition of works by Jordanian artists at the Professional Association Complex in Irbid.
- ★ An art exhibition by artist Misa Erder at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- ★ A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

### FORUM

- ★ The Arabic-German literature forum at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

### LITERARY EVENING

- ★ A literary evening by Munira Shureih at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

## Hanania reviews institution's programmes

## NMI to make drastic reforms in hospitals, build new ones

By Suhair Obeidat  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The National Medical Institution (NMI) is working on a long-term plan to meet the Kingdom's medical requirements until the year 2,000 and this requires building new hospitals and conducting drastic reforms in the existing ones, NMI Director General Daoud Hanania said Thursday.

Jordan's population is expected to grow into 4.7 million in 11 years, making it imperative on the NMI to take such measures, Hanania said at a press conference in which he reviewed the institution's plans and programmes.

The creation of the NMI, Hanania said, came upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein, with the purpose of improving the standards of hospitals in the Kingdom and promoting the medical services for all the citizens.

Before the NMI was established, Hanania pointed out, the hospital system in the public sector was managed by three different organisations: the Armed Forces, the Health Ministry and the University of Jordan. "These organisations worked independently from each other to a very large extent.

"Therefore, there was independent planning, budget and training, not to mention separate administrative structures and procedures. This naturally led to varying standards and duplication of services, and most importantly to an increase in medical expenditure," Hanania said.

So, in the past year, he added, "we have been involved in wide ranging efforts to find ways and means of coordination to reach our goals of unified health care standards."

Though the NMI is financially and administratively indepen-

dent, it coordinates with the Health Ministry and the University of Jordan on a day to day bases. According to Hanania, the organisational procedures are devised so that the private sector can reorganise itself.

The administrative structure of the NMI directorate was formed and approved by the board of regents, incorporating several innovative ideas, such as a consultative council composed of the head of disciplines of various specialities, to help the NMI in forming a planning policy for the

various specialities, including training, equipment and upgrading services.

The training of management personnel was a major flaw in our system, so the department in charge would handle, in a very detailed manner, the training of hospital workers, physicians, nurses, dental officers, pharmacists and other allied health workers, both inside and outside the country," Hanania said.

"Similarly, the development of a management information system is already under way. Our planning group, following extensive and detailed surveys of our hospitals, have produced clear ideas of the budgetary requirements in the short and long terms to see how the individual citizen is affected by all this," he added.

In the meantime there will be no increase in the health care provision, despite the fact that there will be an increase in expenditure because of the reform

being implemented in the system.

The NMI is responsible for all beneficiaries of the military and civil insurance schemes, and its specialised hospitals (King Hussein Medical Centre and the Jordan University Hospital) are serving the people referred to them from the medical centres of the Health Ministry, through directives formulated by the ministry and the NMI. The transfer of patients, caused by either lack of beds, grade or specialty is now possible and easier, Hanania said.

"Queen Alia Hospital, which is a highly developed hospital, is considered an alternative for military personnel," Hanania added.

The NMI, with an estimated budget of JD 52 million, will create a residency programme and fellowships in order to upgrade the performance of the health care system.



National Medical Institute Director General Daoud Hanania Thursday speaks at press conference on the plans and programmes of the institution (Petra photo)

## UDD distributes 75 housing units in Ruseifa

ZARQA (J.T.) — The Urban Development Department (UDD) Thursday distributed 75 housing units to beneficiaries in the Ruseifa housing estate which is being built in stages.

UDD Director Hisham Al Zagha who supervised the distribution process said that the three-stage project, which will cost JD 3,665 million, includes two schools, a community centre, a vocational training centre, a health clinic and an emergency and first aid unit, as well as a shopping area.

In the coming week the UDD will distribute more units built in the course of implementing the first stage of the project, but those units of the second and third stages will be distributed in the coming two months, Zagha noted.

Later, Zagha attended a tree planting celebration at the Marka housing estate and, in a statement to Al Ra'i newspaper later, he

said that the Marka housing estate includes 600 units complete with basic services and a good network of roads, schools, community and health centres.

The UDD has received 1,500 applications from members of the public to benefit from the units in Marka, but they will be distributed to families with less than JD 200 monthly income, Zagha said.

Work on the project had begun in 1986 and the UDD has just received the first phase while the second and final stage will be

ready by July this year, Zagha noted.

At present the UDD is carrying out major housing project of 1,400 units at Umm Nuwara (Qweisreh), south east of Am-

man, the UDD director added. He said that the project will be ready by early 1990 and the beneficiaries will have to pay 10 per cent of the total cost which will be spread over several years.

**SUPPLY COUNCIL MEMBERS:** The cabinet has endorsed the appointment of Mohammad Asfour, Khaled Abu Hassan, Khaled Darwazeh, and Toujan Faisal as members of the Supply Council for two years. (Petra)

**530 FAMILIES RECEIVE AID:** The National Aid Fund office in Karak Governorate presented aid to 530 needy families in November and December. The aid amounted to JD 21,340. (Petra)

## Ministry works out programme for proper training of teachers

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has worked out an integrated programme to provide training and proper qualifications for teachers in Jordan in implementation of resolutions adopted by the first educational conference held in 1987, according to the director of the Teachers Qualification and Supervision Department at the Ministry of Education.

The college, which opened its door last year, is now providing high-level training to 300 teachers in Arabic, English, Mathematics and religious education.

He added that the ministry is now coordinating work with Jordanian universities to introduce additional courses for students who can later be trained to be teachers at its schools.

According to the official, nearly 75 per cent of teachers in government schools now hold teachers training institute diplomas and 25 per cent of them have also acquired university degrees.

The ministry annually trains 15 per cent of its school teachers through high-level, short-term courses conducted in their own regions, the official said.

The training, he added, involves using textbooks, which the ministry is now introducing to the school curricula — a process which is expected to be completed by the year 1993.

## Shobak castle — home of the only Ayyubid palace

SHOBAK Castle is one of the Jordan's best-known monuments. Located a few kilometres north of the town of Nijil, it is easily reached by visitors approaching Petra from the north. The castle stands on the summit of a steep hill close to the crest of the Wadi Araba. The dense labyrinth of architectural remains within the fortress walls are most commonly associated with the Crusader period, for the castle was initially built by a Frankish army. Yet upon closer examination of the ruins and the historical texts it is clear that the site was occupied continuously from the 12th century until the 20th century and represents one of the most significant ruins of the late Islamic period in Jordan.

Shobak, founded in 1115-6 A.D. by Baldwin I the ruler of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, was the primary fortress within the Crusader defences of Oultra-Jordain, or Trans-Jordan. The short-lived Crusader presence in southern Jordan ended in 1189 when the army of the Ayyubid General Saladin conquered the fortress and established Ayyubid rule in the region.

The architectural remnants preserved at Shobak attest to each of these occupations. Among the major monuments are: the Crusader Church and Chapel; an Ayyubid Palace; and the large defensive towers from the Mamluk period. Evi-

gance of the Ottoman garrison presence is mainly noted in the reuse of earlier structures whereas numerous stone houses used by villagers during the Ottoman period until some 30-50 years ago are scattered across the site.

The Shobak Archaeological Project conducted a preliminary season during August 1986. The purpose of this campaign was to conduct excavations and an architectural study of the site. The work was concentrated in the Ayyubid Palace Complex although additional soundings were located west of the Crusader church.

The most conclusive data were gathered from the palace complex where four phases of occupation were encountered.

Phase I consisted of the foundations and initial occupation of the Ayyubid Palace and Phase II pertains to architectural reconstructions carried out later in the Ayyubid period. Reoccupation was attested in the Phase III Mamluk structure, as well as in the Phase IV remains from the Ottoman period. Architectural features predating the construction of the palace were also encountered. While more clarification is needed to determine the specific phasing of these components, it appears that both



Shobak Castle

Nahataean and Crusader elements are present beneath the palace foundations.

Historical documents demonstrate that at least three Ayyubid rulers carried out constructions at the site, yet the texts do not specifically refer to the palace.

Nevertheless it appears that

the palace was built by Al Mu'azzam 'Isa ibn Al 'Adil who governed Shobak from 1197-1226.

This prince, who was appointed Sultan of Damascus in 1218, was exceptional among the Ayyubid lords of Shobak. He was noted for numerous constructions at the

site, which he surrounded with beautiful gardens. Thus, it can be suggested that Al Mu'azzam 'Isa built the palace as his personal residence, before assuming the Damascus Sultanate.

The structure is unique in that it is the only Ayyubid palace in Jordan.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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### Step in the right direction

THE ON-GOING negotiations between Egypt, Iraq, North men and Jordan to form a common market between them is the talk of the Arab World. When these negotiations come to fruition as expected they will offer the Arab peoples the best news ever for a long time to come. Above all, such a projected sub-regional Arab common market would signal the end of the stage of talks for the sake of talks at the beginning of a new era in inter-Arab relations that would usher in more action-oriented steps and measures leading to an overall Arab common market. It is true the tensions of the negotiations to affect a limited Arab common market, linking just four Arab states at this initial stage, are not as ambitious as the Arab peoples would like to be. The calls of Arab nationalism would not rest until total Arab economic and political unity is achieved. Aiming for such an ambitious objective in one leap may end up frustrating that dream. That is why it would be more prudent to proceed one step at a time till that final giant step is taken. It is the ardent hope of every citizen of the four Arab countries joining now in a mini common market that other Arab countries would become organically linked with it in the kind of a generic Arab common market that would stand the test of time and meet the imminent expectation coming its way from other regional common markets proliferating the international scene. There is no escape from the conclusion that the world is witnessing the birth of many regional united fronts, both economic and fiscal, and it is high time that the Arab World begin this process in order to be able to meet the stiff competitive edge posed by this new phenomenon. It is with great satisfaction I pride that the Arab World saw the nuclei of such an inter-Arab economic common markets begin in the Arab region in the form of the Gulf Cooperation Council in 1981. Concurrently with the four Mashreq countries' talks the formation of their own embryonic common market, are also on-going talks between the Maghreb Arab countries of North Africa with a view of creating the same objective between them. And when all these major inter-regional Arab common markets begin to flex their economic and in turn political muscles there is no telling where their respective scope and jurisdiction would end. For all the Arab peoples affected by such sub-regional common markets would very much like to see Syria, Jordan and all the other Arab states, including hopefully Palestine, become integrated parts of this whole process. At this early stage there is nothing that would please Jordan more than to see Syria joining in the effort to realise part of the Arab dream by becoming an early partner in Egyptian, Jordanian, North Yemeni, and Jordanian projected common market.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Formation of an Arab economic group, grouping Egypt, Jordan, North Yemen and Iraq was the theme of Al Ra'i Arabic's editorial Friday. The idea which was highlighted by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in a statement to the press on Tuesday, had originally been advocated by His Majesty King Hussein to serve side by side with the grouping of Arab countries in the Maghreb region, and thus consolidate inter-Arab political economic stance, the paper said. Indeed there will be no need in the world for weak nations in the light of the formation of economic groupings in Europe and other parts of the world, the paper added. The paper said that any grouping of Arab states in the Mashreq will be open for other Arab countries to join in, will enhance further the Arab Nation's potential. The formation of this grouping, the paper concluded would no doubt be in a new era for the Arabs and a new and stronger status among world nations.

Columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the prospect of forming a new Arab delegation, grouping states in confrontation with the rest of the coming international Middle East peace conference. Mahmoud Riniawi says that this will be a practical step, but it has to be well prepared through contacts and negotiations. The writer notes that Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine are the most concerned parties in the region and therefore they ought to form one group to negotiate the future of the region through an international conference which must also be attended by representatives of major nations of the world. The writer says that the slight movement in relations between Cairo and Damascus can bear indications for a prospective action in this respect, since, at all, the Arabs are all in the same boat, facing a common problem and a common enemy.

Dustour daily newspaper dwelt on King Hussein's visit to Cairo and his talks with President Hosni Mubarak. The two leaders who announced Thursday that they were working hand in hand to serve the national interest, sounded very optimistic about the future, in view of the positive developments witnessed in the Arab region in the end of the Gulf war and the world-wide support for the Palestinian uprising, the paper noted. It said that at this time the King meets with Mubarak, the outcome proves very encouraging and fruitful, simply because the two leaders are sharing their time and efforts to serve their Arab nation. This fruitful relationship, the paper added, is now poised to achieve further steps conducive to a stronger and more consolidated Arab world.

Al Shaab daily said that King Hussein's talks with the Saudi Egyptian leaders were aimed at serving the Arab higher interests. Building a unified Arab stand and enhancing the unity of the Arab Nation is no doubt behind the King's recent tour, simply because the King has been calling for a joint role by the Arab Nation in dealing with the common challenges, the paper said. It said that the coming Arab summit will be a right move for the Arabs where they can pool their efforts and their countries' resources for the benefit of the Arab Nation.

## United Europe: For whites only?

By Yasmin Alibhai

THE DEEPER implications of 1992 and the Single European Act are, and should be, causing real trepidation. "We are not looking to the future hopefully," said Tara Mukherjee, chairman of the Confederation of Indian Organisations, recently. "If 1992 means a reassertion of the worst elements of white history, we are lost. As non-white Europeans, we must fight and take up our rightful position in the vanguard of the new Europe and we will."

It is not the usual clinging to the status quo which is producing these fears. Nor is it the destructive parochialism of many British. The worry is that there is a respectable xenophobia mushrooming all over the continent that is pushing some of the collective dreams for 1992 to cluster around a concept of Europe which is white, racist and much more powerful than any post-war individual state.

Professor Chris Mullard, head of ethnic studies at the University of Amsterdam, puts in this way:

"The states in Europe are fiercely nationalistic. What 1992 represents is a transformation of nationalism into a white continentalism, altogether more right, resilient, and with more power." Conceived primarily as an economic union, he believes, the European Community now needs a firmer coherence if it is to establish some kind of real presence in the future, particularly with changed global relationships. A reaffirmation of pre-war attitudes towards the Third World, and a self-image of superiority may well be the glue that is needed for the bonding. One way of triggering off such a frenzy of togetherness would be to create the image of demons at the door.

A more sophisticated way, though, is to assert the existence of a shared European ethnic identity, emanating from a common Graeco-Roman tradition. This is the current talk of many right wingers who claim that the core culture which runs through the backbone of Europe needs to be nurtured and protected from alien influences. The trouble is that the unity of Europe in the past had little in common with this cosy image. The European nations often detested each other. Such a bond as did exist was external — a common sense of their superiority over the rest of the world and their right to exploit it.

The post-war experience did much to sap this arrogance, but only temporarily. But the hubris is now re-emerging, with a vengeance. Mrs. Thatcher's speech at Bruges last year marks this important reassertion. Finger on the pulse as usual, she said: "From our perspective today, surely what strikes us most is our common experience. For instance, the story of how Europeans explored and colonised and —

yes, without apology — civilised much of the world is an extraordinary tale to talent, skill and courage." She also made a strong assertion that Europe was Christian.

All this, therefore, raises a central and neglected question: Where do non-white Europeans fall within such a vision?

Even those non-whites who are already part of the nation states — immigrants, migrants, their offspring — fall outside what those countries perceive as "desirable" citizens. Otherwise it would not have been possible to pass the kind of racist legislation which so many countries in Europe — Britain, Belgium, France and the Netherlands among them — have been adopting over the last ten years. In terms of numbers, the people affected by such laws as the British Nationality Act remain very small. Their importance is symbolic, pushing the notion that "aliens" do not belong, are unwelcome, and need serious control.

So, as Europe moves towards some kind of integrated vision, what happens to these indoor colonials, who have at the moment (quite justifiably) no sense that it is their Europe, whose disenchanted and horror increases with time, whose children face more and not less racism, and who are not prepared to be the lowest of the low any more? Non-whites could indeed be a destructive force in the process of the "unification" of Europe. For a start, few of them could psychologically participate in the reconstruction of the myth of a superior whiteness and give it unconditional loyalty. Peregrine Worsthorne has already argued that their allegiance "may be with the enemies of the West, namely the Third World."

The New Right tries to deal with this in two ways. First, by talking unashamedly about the universal human need for "separate development" (a speech by the deputy Minister of Justice in the Netherlands put forward this apartheid ideology recently). Second, and if all else fails, by taking a severe assimilationist line to submerge "aliens". Successful black Thatcherites are already being sucked into the fast stream in this country.

Non-white citizens living in Europe are therefore already feeling uneasy about their future, and the ever popular sport taken up by the politicians and bureaucrats of keeping out the Third World, is unlikely to reassure them that they are valued members of the community, or that they could create a different vision for 1992, especially as the use of paranoia to achieve unity is gaining momentum.

The messages ringing out are that more people from the Third World are gathering — like vermin — at the hitherto vulnerable

doors of affluent Europe, and that being only vermin, they do not require the human rights, freedom and democracy upon which Western Europe has been built. The Greeks used the same oaf divisions. Civilised values applied to civilised people and not to those they defined as barbarians.

There are two central but conflicting traditions seen together. On the one hand, there is the Europe that has meant the hegemony of white people, the whiteness that, as Frantz Fanon says, burns you. On the other, there is an equally strong but admirable tradition of egalitarian universalism devoted to the preservation of human rights, a tradition that acquired real meaning after the defeat of fascism.

Agreement over these fundamental issues produced supranational treaties to protect these rights. Western Europe became the haven for those facing inhumane prosecution. That

Europe no longer exists — at least not for undesirable intruders from the Third World. Of course there is still a lot of romance about fleeing Czech writers.

This *Zeitgeist* of intolerance is seeping all over the continent. In the European Parliament recently, a French MEP Michel Collignon said that family unification was "an incitement to the massive settlement of Third World populations on European soil." A British MEP, Andrew Pearce, added: "We will find that parts of our member states become almost like foreign countries where we have foreign culture imposed on our society not merely adding to the variety of cultures in our community." An unpublished 1987 Runnymede Trust report on Belgium states: "Before... discriminatory practices and the justification of discriminatory treatment were large-

ly condemned by the authorities. This is no longer the case." Even in Denmark, the moral line is giving way to the tough line.

The dilemma is that Europe still needs some of the labour of the Third World, particularly with the economic explosions going on all over the West and expected demographic changes in the near future. According to Professor Robin Cohen of Warwick University, these requirements are now carefully categorised according to changing economic needs.

In Britain, goal posts have been moved and moved. The right of appeal has been eroded and interventions by MPs are severely restricted. The 1951 Geneva Convention is being interpreted in a much more narrow way. Post-war European refugees were admitted on the basis that they were victims of generalised persecution. Now refugee status is being denied to those people from Sri Lanka who are making the same claims. In Germany the danger of having to anticipate torture in the country of origin does not constitute grounds for asylum.

Shifts to the extreme right in internal politics are also exerting an influence. France's Le Pen is the obvious example. There is also a growth in new fascist networks. Van Steen of the Belgian National Front has been quoted as saying he wants a "Free White Europe". The unthinkable is soon turned into vote-catching slogans. The resonance is palpable.

And if the present is bad, then the future could be even worse. That is because the European structure will be more powerful and capable of strong concerted action. There is already a dangerous connection being made at high levels between drug traffickers, criminals, terrorists, prostitutes, immigrants and refugees.

The Trevi group consisting of interior and justice ministers

example, 135,000 refugees were admitted into Britain — 0.24 per cent of the population. Sudan, a country of equivalent size, took in 1,164,000 refugees — 3.61 per cent of its total population. The myth that there are millions of safe refugees at the door cannot be sustained by the facts. But because the scale and nature of the movement is so poorly understood, it has been possible to manipulate the issue and play on public fears.

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The Trevi group consisting of interior and justice ministers

from the EEC and other countries, including the US and Canada, now meets regularly. A Home Office spokesman admitted that there had been Trevi discussions about border controls, "terrorists, immigrants, other undesirables and a common refugee policy." The non-governmental agencies around Europe who work in the field now fear that unless there is powerful lobbying, future common immigration and refugee policies will involve a levelling downwards towards the least liberal line. That is why the newly formed network Migrerurope was established, bringing together migrant and refugee groups and an anti-racist consortium. They want to see a different new Europe enshrined in the symbolism of 1992.

Philip Rudge has faith in such initiatives. "1992 must not be about institutionalised selfishness, and a reinforcement of that outdated European superior culture," he says. Others, like Bhikhu Parekh of the Commission of Racial Equality see the future more optimistically, if only because the past has been so bad. Last June, a European Commission resolution recognised this change, by stating that the fight against racism and xenophobia was at the centre of the search for a new European identity as the community moves towards integration. Actions have not so far matched up to these ideals. This will be the real challenge of the 1992 act. As Philip Rudge puts it, "The acid test is going to be whether this is something internationalist and bigger than its composite parts — or whether it is an accumulation of chauvinisms."

Yasmin Alibhai is editor of the *New Statesman* and Society's race and society supplement. This article is reprinted from the British newspaper, *The Guardian*.

### South Sudan faces new threat of famine

By Hamza Hendawi

Reuter

KHARTOUM — Famine that killed tens of thousands in south Sudan last year could strike again even if efforts to end a civil war succeeded, said foreign diplomats and relief officials here.

They said a new cycle of death from starvation and disease had begun in some areas, while in others people might be preparing to leave their villages in search of food.

Diplomats said the war might escalate following a parliament vote last month of a peace plan agreed in November by rebel leader John Garang and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

Parliament adopted another plan proposed by Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi. The DUP quit

bandits looking for loot almost everywhere," he said.

At least three million Sudanese have fled their homes to avoid the five-year old war. Together with flooding and drought, famine has racked the mainly subsistence farming region.

Relief officials in Khartoum said that without an immediate ceasefire they would not be able to send enough food to the south before rains due in March cut the roads.

Diplomats said the war might not be the end of the problem," said Christopher Carr, chief administrator in Sudan of the French charity Médecins Sans Frontières.

"Most of the roads are mined by the (Sudan People's Liberation Army) rebels and there are

the ruling coalition in protest and the SPLA rejected the plan.

Press reports in Khartoum this month said 15 people were dying of hunger in Malakal every day.

Tens of thousands died in the south last year and relief officials say many others may have perished in remote war-torn regions.

The ICRC began relief operations on December 4 after nearly a year of laborious negotiations won approval from both the SPLA and the government.

Disputes over how to operate, jealousies and in some cases inefficiency among donor countries and relief organisations are likely to hinder their efforts, diplomats said.

"It all boils down to politics pure and simple," said a foreign

relief official seconded to the government's relief and rehabilitation commission.

Private relief agencies say donated food often finds its way to the black market or the tables of people who do not need it.

Some relief officials are concerned that an airlift by the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) to the southern town of Aweil has not been approved by the SPLA.

The SPLA has threatened in the past to shoot down planes flying without its permission. It has approved an ICRC airlift to Aweil.

"If the rebels shoot down the UNDP plane, the ICRC operation will certainly go down with it," said the director of a major relief operation in Khartoum.

### Burma faces uncertain future

By Denis D. Gray

The Associated Press

TAUNGGYI, Burma — At a news conference intended to convince foreign journalists that Burma's military junta was dealing magnanimously with dissidents, a student leader suddenly challenged an army officer.

It was not true, shouted Myo Win Htun, that students attacked troops in Taunggyi during last year's pro-democracy demonstrations as the officer claimed. It was the army that fired into crowds, killing students in their early teens, he asserted amid applause from his colleagues.

This outburst appeared to reflect what many Burmese say is a defiant mood and a widespread smoldering hatred of Burma's powerful military, which had turned its guns on students, Buddhist monks and others agitating for an end to 26 years of authoritarian rule.

The deep rift in Burmese society, with its potential for renewed violence, is but one of a host of problems facing this impoverished nation now shunned by the international community.

"The current situation is complex. The future is bleak and uncertain," said one Burmese journalist.

Although the military crushed

the uprising last September, it has promised general elections and allowed more than 180 political parties to register. It has also attempted to woo the population by sweeping streets, whitewashing pagodas and providing basic commodities to the poor at special stores.

Many Burmese have reacted to such moves with derision and are watching the powerholders for signs of meaningful change.

"If there are



In Africa between 60-80 per cent of the population are bound to be effected by malaria

## Drug-resistant malaria spreading in Africa

By Robert Mahoney  
Reuter

ABIDJAN — When the sun sets in Africa young children face death.

Dusk brings the anopheline mosquito, bearer of one of the world's biggest child-killers, malaria.

The disease, which produces raging fevers and body-jarring chills is on the rise, killing three million people a year and resisting the drugs used to fight it.

Half the planet's five billion inhabitants live in malarial zones and 20 million travellers a year pass through them.

Researchers are working on a vaccine but many specialists think given if it proved effective it would be too expensive to help the Third World.

Malaria's impact is hardest on Africa where climate, poverty, bad sanitation and ignorance provide an ideal breeding ground.

The painless bite of the blood-sucking mosquito kills more than one million African children annually, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Of the 300 million people a year in the world's tropical and sub-tropical zones who catch malaria for the first time, 90 per cent are African.

The line-up any morning at Abidjan's Treichville hospital is evidence enough. Young and old sit sweating or shivering, waiting for handfuls of pills or better still a shot of quinine. One mother hangs to her three-year-old son who walls with a 40-degree-centigrade fever. Like millions of other children the boy has never been given anti-malaria tablets and sleeps without a mosquito net.

Drugs will save his life this time before the fever reaches his brain. But they will not stop him being reinfected.

"Sanitary conditions in Africa are bad," said Dr. Christian Voumard, a regional adviser for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water below 1,800 metres in anything from a carelessly discarded tin can to a lake. The mature female injects parasites into humans which incubate in the liver and then infest the blood causing the red corpuscles to burst.

"Malaria means 'bad air' in Italian. People once blamed the gases rather than the insects from the marshes where they lived for the disease.

Chloroquine is virtually useless now in large areas of South-East Asia and South America and the drug that replaced it in the early 1970s, Fansidar, is going the same way.

"It took between 10 and 15 years for resistance to overtake Chloroquine and Fansidar in South-East Asia," said Professor Hervé Maisonneuve of Lyon, France.

"But there's only about five per cent of the population that get malaria in Africa it's between 60 and 80 per cent."

Hope?

What hope is there for suffer-

ers? The old standby is quinine, known since the 16th century for its anti-malarial properties. But it is usually given to cure rather than prevent the sickness, often in the form of injections or an intravenous drip.

This is fine in a modern hospital but in rural areas patients often get insufficient doses, badly administered so the disease roars back with a vengeance, doctors said.

A couple of bright spots on the horizon, however, have come from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington. Its discoveries have led to two new drugs — Mefloquine and Halofantrine, both in tablet form. Mefloquine stays in the body long enough to be useful as a preventative for Westerners and others travelling to Chloroquine-resistant areas.

Halofantrine, which is so new it has not been approved for sale only in France and four African countries, is for those already suffering a malaria attack.

"These are good alternatives," said UNICEF's Voumard, "but they are too costly for most Africans."

Doctors also concede that at least one of the four forms of malaria parasite will eventually develop a resistance to these drugs.

That is why they are so anxious to ensure their proper prescription. Indiscriminate use of Chloroquine helped hasten resistance to the drug.

So what is the experts' advice? For travellers to Chloroquine-resistant areas take Mefloquine, to other areas take Chloroquine and another drug such as Paludrine.

And for the millions who live with the disease each day? The best advice they had was "don't get bitten."

## Detecting gas, the Finnish way

By Nigel Stephenson  
Reuter

HELSINKI — A unique Finnish research laboratory has developed techniques to sniff out minute traces of deadly chemical weapons in the atmosphere.

Now the Finnish government has offered its resources and expertise to the world as a contribution to international efforts aimed at banning chemical weapons.

"We feel that if there is any banned agent in any sample, we can detect it," said Marjatta Rautio, director of the Finnish project on the verification of chemical weapons.

Rautio, who will attend the talks in Geneva on technical aspects of a future treaty which resume on Tuesday, says the project is the world's only civilian laboratory devoted entirely to chemical arms verification.

For 15 years, it has amassed data on 200 banned chemicals, seeking ways of detecting and analysing the tell-tale signs that nerve gases and other compounds leave in air, soil and water.

Finnish officials say the pioneering work of the Helsinki-based project is winning international support which could bring a comprehensive ban closer.

At the recent Paris chemical arms conference, Finnish Foreign Minister Kalevi Sorsa offered the project's facilities for some of the crucial analytical tasks which would follow the signing of a convention.

He also told the conference, called to bolster the flagging 1925 protocol banning the use of chemical weapons in war, that the project would train chemists from developing countries in verification techniques free of charge from 1990.

"We hope that our offer will, in a tangible way, stimulate interest in the future convention," Sorsa said.

The danger is if some facility could produce militarily-significant amounts of agent and there I hope we could detect them," she said.

She believes it would also be possible to ascertain from samples whether a factory had ever produced chemical weapons and been cleaned up and converted to another use.

said.

Since September, the unit, which is a joint effort of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Helsinki University, has also been on a United Nations list of experts which could be sent to a battlefield where use of chemical weapons was suspected.

"We have the gas masks and the suits," said Rautio.

As a civilian unit, the project is free to publish its findings and it has already produced 13 volumes on its work.

The team of eight funded by the ministry and three university-funded assistants has been able to trace minute quantities of chemicals far from where they were released.

Rautio said a millionth part of one millionth of a gram of a banned agent could be detected.

In one test, 10 kilogrammes of a harmless substance which simulates sarin, a nerve agent stockpiled by both superpowers, were released into the air over central Finland. Using aircraft and ground sensors, they found traces 200 km away.

In another, 10 milligrammes of sarin and of another agent, soman, were placed on an island off Helsinki. Despite spring sea breezes, the team found traces of sarin in air samples a week later and of soman after a fortnight.

Rautio said small amounts of an agent could be produced without direction but this would not pose a threat.

"The danger is if some facility could produce militarily-significant amounts of agent and there I hope we could detect them," she said.

She believes it would also be possible to ascertain from samples whether a factory had ever produced chemical weapons and been cleaned up and converted to another use.



Chekhov: "Intersecting hopes, angers and frustrations...."

## Precisely, Mr. Chekhov

By Michael Kustow

Chekhov: A Spirit Set Free, by S. Pritchett (Hodder and Stoughton £12.95)

"YOU confuse two things," Chekhov wrote to his publisher, Suvorin, "solving a problem and stating a problem correctly. It is only the second that is obligatory for the artist." Chekhov's way of stating a problem correctly involved creating works that have an almost musical sense of time, the precision of a film-editor and a refusal to linger over a situation or milk an emotion.

This balance of grace and purposefulness is what V.S. Pritchett, himself a deft douser down the sidewalks of literature, seeks for the artist. "Chekhov's way of solving a problem correctly involved creating works that have an almost musical sense of time, the precision of a film-editor and a refusal to linger over a situation or milk an emotion."

Both in his biography and in the shapes of his fiction he is famously elusive and reserved. This lightness, dealing with weighty matters, is his liberty. It is a balance painstakingly arrived at as he develops from his early vaudevilles to the polyphony of his late stories, and of Three Sisters and The Cherry Orchard.

Many writers today make Chekhov an emblem. Seamus Heaney, in his recent essay-collection The Government of the Tongue, depicts Chekhov the citizen, the serf's grandson, choosing to confront the cruelty and backwardness of his country, yet staying true to the freedoms and delight of art.

A bottle of champagne called for on Chekhov's deathbed features in the last year by Raymond Carver, who had much of Chekhov's glancing penetration. Carver's story ends with a close-up of the young waiter who is sent by Chekhov's wife to fetch the undertaker. Her instructions are a metaphor of the spell Chekhov casts over writers and readers:

"He was to behave exactly as if he were engaged on a very important errand, nothing more. And if it would help to keep his movements purposeful he should imagine himself as someone moving down the busy sidewalk carrying to his arms a porcelain vase of roses that he had to deliver to an important man."

Pritchett traces the way Chekhov distanced himself from Dostoevsky's "shriillness", Tolstoy's moralism and the neatness of Maupassant. As reserved as his protagonist, Pritchett rarely ventures generalisations about these stories, except to murmur that "good stories do not come straight from real experience, but evolve from contemplating an essence of it."

Chekhov distilled this essence from a mosaic of tiny details, collected with apparent effortlessness, which glint from the surface of everything he wrote; like this disagreeable husband, "a handsome and rather arrogant person, who liked lighting cigarettes from icon-lamps and who was a habitual whistler." Pritchett collects fine details about Chekhov: his sensitivity to sounds, his loose-woven endings, with life's indifferent continuity seeping through.

The stories are more muted in their passion than the plays, but in both, Chekhov's characters are potentially full-hearted people stilled and sapped in a lethargic society.

Pritchett brings out well the web of intersecting hopes, angers and frustrations, the castrating of cross-purposes, and the steady tide of time which, more than the fate of any single character, adds up to an enduring state of the soul we call Chekhovian — The Guardian.

## The story of Mohammad Gul

NEW DELHI — Drawing himself up to his full height, Gul Mohammad vehemently insists that, at 63 centimetres, he is the world's shortest man. He is so full of the claim that in the Caribbean's Dominican Republic there is someone who is eight cm.

that the local roadsweepers have become particularly diligent.

Mohammad was a normal sized baby, but soon stopped growing. Doctors were consulted and eventually they made it clear that the child would not grow any taller.

The boy has to give up his schoolboy because fellow-pupils made fun to him. And life has been no easier for the adult Mohammad. At home he is carried up the stairs on other people's shoulders, and his hands are so tiny that an aunt has to bathe him and comb his hair.

Then he is certain that he would no longer be earning the pittance of less than five rupees a day selling homemade sweets in back streets of the walled city of old Delhi. As a celebrity, he is sure that he could even break into India's busy film industry.

The publicity surrounding the disputed accolade has already brought Mohammad a taste of fame. Referring to his appearances on radio and television, he said: "Previously, no one even asked my name — and now they want interviews."

He has also been officially entertained by the mayor of New Delhi, while there have been a number of important callers at his house. One benefit from this is

that the local roadsweepers have become particularly diligent.

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At the other end of the scale, the title of being the world's tallest man is held by a 44-year-old Mozambican, Gabriel Estevao Monjane. He measures 2.52 metres — Lion features.

According to the latest record books, the world's shortest man is 30-year-old Nelson de la Rosa, of the Dominican Republic, who is 72 cms tall. But if Gul Mohammad has his way, these books will have to be revised.

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## Bush warns central bank chief not to hinder economic growth

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bush, reacting to tough anti-inflation comments by Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan, said Thursday he did not want the U.S. central bank to tame inflation at the expense of economic growth.

"I don't want to see us move so strongly against fear of inflation that we impede growth," Bush told reporters.

Greenspan told Congress Wednesday that the Fed would keep a tight grip on credit because inflation was already too high and could rise even faster unless the economy slowed down.

The warning shot across the Fed's bows could set the stage for a battle of wills between Bush and Greenspan. Although the Fed is independent of the administration, its chairman in practice strives to avoid conflict with the White House.

In contrast to the optimistic growth forecasts that Bush is likely to adopt for his budget plan, the Fed chairman said the long-term growth potential of the economy was no more than 2.5 to three per cent a year.

If the economy grew any faster, inflation would accelerate because factories were already working flat out and labour was scarce, he said.

By contrast, the fiscal 1990 budget plan submitted two weeks ago by former president Reagan assumed the economy would expand by 3.5 per cent in 1989 and 3.4 per cent in 1990. It projected growth of 3.2 per cent from 1991 to 1994.

Budget Director Richard Darman has said Bush would stick to

those assumptions in the budget plan he is expected to submit by mid-February. Darman and Bush are counting on swelling tax revenues from a strong economy to reduce the deficit without raising taxes.

Bush, who said he had been

only a summary of Greenspan's comments, was not specific about his expectations for the economy but commented: "We have to keep expanding opportunity for the working men and women of this country."

Greenspan's deputy, Fed Vice-Chairman Manuel Johnson, said earlier Wednesday that the Fed was not determined at all costs to slow growth down to the 2.5 per cent range.

The economy expanded by more than three per cent in 1988, setting aside the impact of the drought.

Johnson told a conference organised by Citizens for a Sound Economy that the Fed did not have a hard growth target because no one knew exactly how fast the economy could expand without igniting inflation.

**Bush administration asks Congress to end trade violations**

Meanwhile, the administration of President Bush has asked Congress to change U.S. trade rules

that international panels have declared to be in violation of an agreement with other trading countries.

"If we want other nations to eliminate... illegal trade barriers when we win before a panel, we must be equally prepared to change our actions and policies when we lose," said Judith Bello, general counsel to the U.S. trade representative.

She was testifying before the International Trade Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee in the House of Representatives.

"We must show we're not a scofflaw (habitual breaker of laws)," Congressman Sam Gibbons agreed.

He is chairman of the subcommittee and a major force in U.S. trade policy.

The accord is the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which has nearly 100 governments as members. The GATT organisation sponsors the "Uruguay Round" negotiations in which the U.S. government has been trying unsuccessfully for a long-term agreement on ending subsidies to farmers. These subsidies cost consumers and taxpayers tens of billions of dollars a year.

Bello said the rules she wants changed are more important than they seem because there are widespread doubts about U.S. intentions among other negotiators.

A issue was a tax on imports of petroleum and some petroleum products passed by Congress in 1986 to help finance a "super-

fund" for cleaning up toxic waste. The tax on imported products was 11.7 U.S. cents a barrel, 3.5 cents more than the tax on U.S. production of the same items. A barrel contains 42 gallons (160 litres).

In June 1987, an international panel ruled that the difference was a discrimination against other countries who violated GATT. Other governments threatened to retaliate against the United States. To avoid that, Reagan's administration offered to negotiate compensation with the countries affected.

There have been talks with Canada, Mexico and the 12 countries represented by the European Community (EC), but no conclusion has been reached.

The EC estimates that the tax cost its member countries \$26.6 million a year.

Bello said it would be preferable to get rid of the differential.

Also at issue is a "user fee" for the services of the U.S. customs, based on the value of products imported. Another international panel ruled that also to be a violation of the accord, which says such fees should be based on actual cost to the customs service.

According to Ella Krucoff, press officer for the EC in Washington, EC members paid \$22.2 million in such fees in 1987.

"The U.S. fee must be revised to tie it more closely to the actual cost of processing particular entries," Bello said.

The "user fee" programme brought in \$787 million last year, according to Harry Carnes, director of the U.S. customs service's user fee task force.

Good news to the Irish. But mortgage tax relief was trimmed and taxes on drink and cigarettes rose slightly.

After hefty pre-budget campaigning by church leaders and community workers, Reynolds also launched a war on want to help the poor in Ireland.

Social welfare payments for the long-term unemployed went up 12 per cent. He took 24,000 people out of the tax net altogether and handed out 20 million pounds (\$30 million) in tax allowances to lower income families.

With Ireland cautiously embarked on the road to economic recovery, he forecast a three per cent growth in gross national product for 1989 compared to 1.5 per cent last year.

He also forecast that inflation would not climb above 2.75 per cent from its present year-on-year figure of 2.1 per cent.

The income tax cuts offered

## Analysts expect prices of oil to stabilise near \$15 a barrel

TOKYO (R) — Middle East crude oil prices will stabilise around \$15 a barrel for the next two months, but weaken in the second quarter unless oil producers cooperate to control output, industry analysts said.

Prices plummeted by 75 cents

after talks between experts from OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) and non-OPEC oil producing nations.

Thursday failed to result in specific proposals for output cuts.

OPEC and non-OPEC oil ministers will meet at an unspecified later date, OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said after the joint experts meeting.

"The market expected something more, therefore they were disappointed," said Yasuhiro Tashiro chief economist for the Idemitsu oil company.

The benchmark Middle East crude oil company.

## Lendl to face Mecir in final

MELBOURNE (R) — Ivan Lendl's hopes of winning his first Australian Open title almost suffered meltdown Friday before the number two seed struggled past Thomas Muster 6-2, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5 on a furnace-like centre court.

In an all-Czechoslovak final Lendl will play Miloslav Mecir who put on a brilliant display of tennis conjuring tricks to outfox Sweden's Jan Gunnarsson 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.

Lendl, a losing semifinalist at the last three opens, cruised to a two-set lead before wilting in court-side temperatures of over 40 degrees celsius.

The Austrian 11th seed, hitting every ball as if his life depended on it, took the third set as Lendl doused himself with iced water and hugged every inch of shade in an attempt to keep cool.

The form player of the tournament, Lendl looked to be playing at little more than half pace in the fourth set and he had to rely on an awful mistake by Muster to reach his second Open final.

At 5-5 the Austrian, leading 40-30, was presented with a simple smash at the net. With Lendl stranded on the wrong side of the court, Muster slammed the ball into the net, releasing a howl of anguish as he realised his error. Lendl earned a breakpoint off the next point, won the game

thanks to a Muster double-fault and then served out to love to win the match.

"It was possibly the hottest match I've ever played," Lendl said later. "I think we were both tired, and in heat like that it is a question of who is the more experienced and can take advantage of the chances he has."

"I have blisters all over my feet, it was burning and you had the feeling you could jump into iced water," Muster said. "The air is just standing still in the stadium, it feels like you are in a sauna."

Recalling the mistake that may well have him for years, Muster said: "I just overhit it. I should have played a little angled ball but I forced it too much."

Mecir, nicknamed the "Swede ace" for his sequence of victories against the likes of Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg, was in inspired form for three-quarters of the match.

Unconventional as ever, he revealed delightful skills and imperfect judgement to leave Gunnarsson cornered and confused.

Trailing 5-2 in the first set and

frustrated by several bad line-calls, Mecir's subsequent transformation amazed the Swede, playing his first Grand Slam semi-final.

"I was playing the same tennis all the time," he said, "but after 2-2 Mecir didn't make any mistakes."

"I was running all over the court but it's very difficult to read his shots, he changes his mind very late."

Wearing new shoes on a hot court did not help Gunnarsson's cause. "It was like running on chewing gum. It's maybe the hottest tennis match I've ever played," he said.

Mecir, a notorious slow starter, said he was pleased with his form. "I feel much more confident than before the tournament. Neither of us wanted to waste any energy running around out there."

Lendl has beaten Mecir, the 1988 Olympic Gold medalist, four times in their five meetings, which includes the 1986 U.S. Open final.

They last met on clay in the semifinal of the 1987 French Open when Lendl won in straight sets.

The women's doubles final Sunday will feature Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver against fellow-American Patty Fendick and Jill Hetherington of Canada.

Fendick and Hetherington, seeded sixth, beat second seeds Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini in straight sets Friday.

Steffi Graf's superiority has been so great at the Australian Open that her sixth Grand Slam title is being seen as foregone conclusion even before she steps on court against Helena Sukova in Saturday's final.

Failure by the West German world number one on the first step to repeating her historic Grand Slam sweep of last year would rank as one of the biggest sporting upsets of the decade.

Graf, the first player to win all four Grand Slam events in the same year since Margaret Court in 1970, collected an astonishing 11 titles last year when she was beaten only three times in 75 matches and she shows little sign of letting up in 1989.

## NBA Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Kenny Smith had 24 points and 10 assists and Rookie Rick Berry scored 20 points Thursday night to lead the Sacramento Kings over the New Jersey Nets 112-109.

The Kings, who snapped a two-game losing streak, led by 12 points early in the fourth period, then held off a furious Nets rally to win.

Buck Williams led the Nets with 21 points and Dennis Hopson had 18.

It was only the third win in 20 road games for Sacramento this season. The Nets have lost seven of their last 10 games.

### Bullets 126, Pacers 106

Charles A. Jones scored six points in the first three minutes of the fourth quarter and the Washington Bullets fought off a strong Indiana comeback to defeat the Pacers 126-106. It was the third straight victory for Washington and the fourth consecutive road loss for the Pacers, whose 1-19 road record matches Miami's as the worst in the NBA.

### Nuggets 129, Heat 108

Alex English scored 34 points and Walter Davis came off the bench to add 17 to lead Denver to a 129-108 victory over Miami, ending the Nuggets' four-game losing streak. The loss dropped the expansion Miami franchise to 4-35 for the season.

### Rockets 106, Clippers 100

Trailing by 16 points at the half, the Houston Rockets rallied behind Sleepy Floyd's 17 second-half points, including eight in the final two minutes of play, to defeat the Los Angeles Clippers 106-100.

### Hornets 89, Jazz 88

Kurt Rambis grabbed a loose ball under the Charlotte basket and hunkered it in at the buzzer to give the Hornets an 89-88 victory over the Utah Jazz.

## World Cup qualifying matches

### Jordan holds Qatar to 1-1 draw

By John West  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan earned a 1-1 draw out of group leaders Qatar at the Sports City Friday in a tension-packed game which remained goalless until injury time in the second half. Khalid Awad's would-be winner was equalled almost as soon as play restarted by Qatari striker Mahmoud Al Sufi in a game that saw fortunes swing violently.

Meanwhile, Iraq's 3-0 victory over Oman in Baghdad left Qatar at the top of the group with six points, but Iraq close behind on five. Jordan with three points still stand a chance to qualify, but need to win both their remaining matches by convincing margins. Oman with only two points, are now effectively out of the race.

Jordan started aggressively, with a 33 metre shot from Jihad Abdul Mun'am testing Qatari goalkeeper in the first minute. They appeared to have learnt the lessons of the past three games, playing the ball out into spaces on the wings, and shooting on the run. Nuri Yadad played intelligently, and co-ordinated several attacks with through and cross-field passing.

The Qatari, however, gradually overcame their initial nerves and mounted several swift counterattacks, with the lanky Khanis brothers streaking down the pitch. The Jordanian attack had begun to lose its impetus when in the 24th minute Tawfiq Al Sahib netted the ball off the rebound from a freekick. Indian referee Sayyid Hakim ruled offside, however, much to the disappointment of the highly expressive 30,000 capacity crowd.

A dogged midfield struggle then set in, with both teams punching the ball backwards and forwards to each other. In the 45th minute, defender Usama Telli made a spectacular run for the whole length of the pitch, only to have his shot blocked by a defender coming from behind. The second half similarly dragged. Very few long balls were sliced into the sky to set in train clusters of leaping players trying to trap and head them to their way down. It was the kind of confused play where players often ended up tackling when facing their own goal.

Qatari goalie Yunis Ahmad was booked in the 66th minute for wasting time, while his Jordanian counterpart Milad Ahhass earned his rehabilitation with a couple of tremendous saves, one from a cracking 35 metre curler by Salihi 'Aid, and the other a

well-judged run out to a tricky cross. After ninety minutes, the score was still 0-0.

The fifth minute of extra time

was still 0-0.

The electric atmosphere in the stadium was cut in an instant.

Play restarted but neither side

gained further advantage in the remaining two minutes. The hard-worked referee Hakim blew

the final whistle and walked into the tunnel. The crowd stood dazed for a few minutes before streaming out of the stadium, dreaming on their way home of what might have been.

minutes of play they had won and lost again the chance of victory over the group leaders.

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Iraq avenges defeat

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq downed Oman 3-0 (1-0) Friday in a qualifying match for the 1990 World Cup.

The result avenged a surprise 1-1 first leg draw in Muscat three weeks ago when a young Omani side played a top-class defensive game against the experienced Iraqs.

Ali Hussein opened the scoring in the 33rd to give the home side 1-0 lead at halftime. Natiq Hashim added Iraq's second goal in the 54th and Ahmed Radhi scored the third in the 82nd.

Iraq's win marked a successful debut for new national team manager Jamal Salih, who was promoted from managing the national youth squad.

The former national team manager, Viren Amu Baha, was fired Monday after Iraq went down 0-1 away to Qatar last week in another World Cup qualifier.

A crowd of more than 60,000 packed the Al Shaheed stadium for the match, the first soccer international to be played in Iraq since it went to war with neighbouring Iran in 1980.

The International Foothall Federation banned internationals in both Iran and Iraq because players' safety could not be guaranteed. The ban was lifted after a cease-fire took effect last Aug. 20.



A disconsolate Yunis Ahmad surveys the damage after Khalid Awad sneaked a late goal from a freekick. Qatar, however, were to sneak a later goal which dashed Jordan's momentary hopes of victory.

## Foreman ready to outlast opponents

ROCHESTER, New York (AP)

— Former heavyweight champion George Foreman says that none of his opponents seem to believe him when he says he's in great shape.

"They all want to try to move around and make the fight last," Foreman said Thursday night after stopping his "starvin" Mark Young at 1:47 of the seventh round. "They shouldn't wait around. He (Young) didn't do nothing but absorb unnecessary punishment."

It was the 15th straight knockout for the 40-year-old Foreman since beginning a comeback after a 10-year layoff. He didn't appear tired in the ring, standing up between rounds and opening the seventh round with some shuffle steps.

"I don't even get warmed up until 10 rounds," said Foreman, who had two bruises around his left eye caused by what he said

were "desperation blows" by Young.

Foreman, who improved his lifetime record to 60-2 with 57 knockouts, floored Young, a Miami fighter, with a left and right to the head. After Young took the mandatory standing eight count, Foreman hit him with another combination and Young's corner stopped the fight.

"All of a sudden a good shot came from nowhere," said Young, who was a one-round knockout victim of current heavyweight champion Mike Tyson four years ago.

He said he really couldn't compare the two fighters and didn't know who would win if they fought.

Young conceded that he made a mistake and turned the wrong way before Foreman landed the big right hand that knocked him to the canvas in the seventh round.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

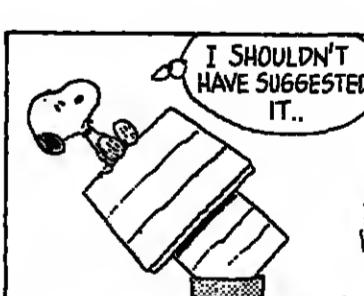
### A yachtsman's nightmare...

SYDNEY (R) — America's cup winner Dennis Conner said Friday he had nightmares about dropping a spinnaker in Sydney harbour during the 12-metre special challenge yachting series against Australian Iain Murray. Tee to 15 knot winds are forecast for Saturday and Conner warned: "If it blows hard people could get seriously injured. We might have problems dropping spinnakers and then where do we go? That is my nightmare." The San Diego skipper was talking at a news conference on the eve of the second day's racing in the 1987 America's cup rematch. Conner and Murray, who have a win each with six races to go, will try to sail three races Saturday.

### Blasino leads Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO (R) — Massimo Blasino, driving without risks to preserve his big lead, led a Lancia sweep of the first three places Wednesday before the final testing night of the Monte Carlo rally. The Italian world champion, winner of the first of the day's five special timed stages, increased his lead to almost five minutes over young French challenger Didier Auriol, who lost two minutes with a wheel problem. Blasino seemed set for a second success in the rallying classic unless he suffered a major mishap during the overnight leg over the cols of Turini, Couillole and Lucern. But he remained cautious about the outcome, saying: "In the Monte Carlo, nothing is decided until the finish line."

## Peanuts

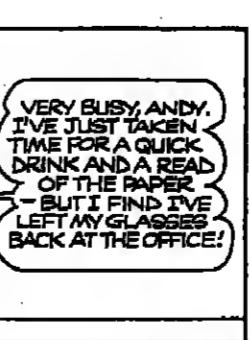


## Mutt 'n' Jeff

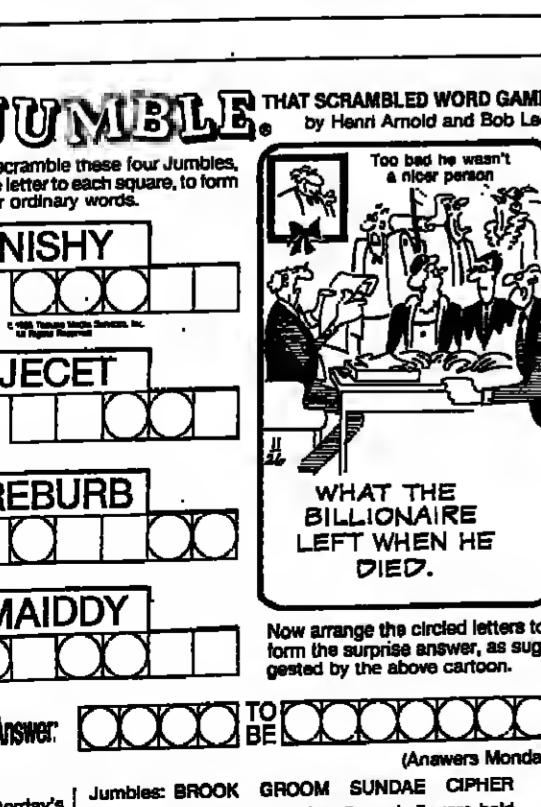


AL SMITH

## Andy Capp



AL SMITH



Yesterday's Jumble: BROOK GROOM SUNDAE CIPHER

Answer: DOUGH

(Answers Monday)

Answer: WHAT THOSE SOCIETY "CRUMBS" WERE HELD

together by — DOUGH"

## China-bound Bush cautious on Soviets, Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush's trip to China next month underscores the importance of U.S. relations with the world's largest country, and although the two have no overriding problems, Bush has some serious issues to discuss with the Chinese.

One is the joint effort the United States and China are making to promote reconciliation between South Korea and North Korea. Another is the growing improvement in relations between China and the Soviet Union.

Bush's trip will be the first visit to Peking by a U.S. chief executive in nearly five years. Former President Ronald Reagan visited the Chinese capital in April 1984.

But while Bush looks to the Far East, stopping also in Japan for Emperor Hirohito's funeral, two other regimens

where problems are far more pressing have been consigned at least for now to the back burner.

Bush and his top foreign policy advisers, Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser, are taking their time about the Soviet Union and the Middle East.

Baker, who is inexperienced in both areas, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during his confirmation hearing that he wanted to "review the bidding" in U.S.-Soviet negotiations to reduce long-range nuclear weapons.

Baker also said the United States should avoid "a headlong rush" to provide Moscow with loans and credits, which are traditionally a useful tool in improving relations.

Scowcroft has more experience in foreign policy matters.

but he too is taking a very cautious approach in dealing with Moscow. He worries that Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's peace offensive may have as one of its main goals "making trouble within the alliance" of Western nations. He is suspicious that Gorbachev's motivation is to buy time to reform the Soviet economy — which is a lot different from approaching Gorbachev primarily as a world leader trying to ease East-West tensions.

"I think the cold war is not over," Scowcroft said in a recent assessment of the superpower relationship.

While Bush has not insisted on concessions from Moscow before accepting the summit with Gorbachev, the White House spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, said Thursday that the Arabs and Israelis agreed to negotiations. Shultz left office optimistic about the future.

time is right."

It's a bit early to make sweeping judgments, but the indications are a slowdown in the reconciliation promoted by Reagan and former Secretary of State George P. Shultz after Gorbachev's rise to power in the Kremlin in March 1985.

There is a similar go-slow attitude developing toward the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East, which drew serious attention from the Reagan administration toward the end but hardly the concentration trained on Moscow.

Reagan and Shultz, in their final days, broke a 13-year embargo and opened U.S. talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Shultz made five trips to the Middle East in 1988, and while neither the Arabs nor Israelis agreed to negotiations, Shultz left office optimistic about the future.

## Secret Polish talks under way on deal to legalise Solidarity

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa met Poland's interior minister Friday for secret negotiations to set up formal talks with the government on legalising the banned union and making a deal on the country's future.

The meeting aimed to make final preparations for full-scale talks which the government hopes will forge a national coalition with the opposition to pull Poland out of economic crisis.

Walesa and a seven-man Solidarity team swept into a government villa in the village of Magdalenska about 20 kilometres south of Warsaw shortly after Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszcak entered. Neither side commented to reporters.

Two Roman Catholic Church officials also went into the talks. Kiszcak's team was believed to include Politburo members Stanislaw Ciosek and Janusz Reykowski and representatives of the official OPZZ unions.

Walesa and Kiszcak were meeting for the sixth time since last August to discuss convening talks, which are expected to start Feb. 5 or 6.

Final obstacles to the talks appeared to be removed last week when the ruling Communist Party

said the timing and terms of legalising the union it suppressed in 1981 could be discussed.

Preparations for the talks have speeded up since Sunday, when Solidarity accepted the party's proposals.

Walesa held secret discussions with other Solidarity leaders and advisers Thursday after arriving from the northern port of Gdansk where strikes gave rise to the communist world's first independent trade union in 1980.

Setting out Friday morning to meet Kiszcak, Walesa declined to give any details of what they would discuss, saying only: "Poles like to talk to each other."

Solidarity sources said the day's talks were likely to be long and hard but gave no details. A government spokesman declined to comment.

The government invited Walesa to talk with independent public figures and Roman Catholic Church officials last August during the worst labour unrest since

Solidarity's 16-month legal existence which challenged communism.

Walesa helped curb strikes but refused to attend the talks unless the authorities promised to consider legalising Solidarity.

The union finally agreed to the meeting after the party's policy-making central committee last week offered terms for legalising Solidarity as part of increased political and trade union freedoms.

Party sources said the offer, which included lifting a 1982 ban on forming new unions, was prompted by fears of labour unrest over soaring inflation and the need to win over a distrustful public to economic reforms.

Walesa has cautioned against euphoria, saying it remains to be seen if quick restoration of Solidarity as a self-governing independent union is real possibility.

"If it turns out to be an illusion, then we will still have to fight for the most important issues," he said Sunday.

The offer has also angered some members of the OPZZ unions set up to replace Solidarity. They say the party's offer has angered some workers and could prompt more unrest.

## Column 10

Actor wins suit for 'Fawlty' comparison

LONDON (AP) — Comedy actor John Cleese won libel damages Wednesday from a newspaper which claimed he had increasingly come to resemble Basil Fawlty, the manic hotel owner he played in the hit television series "Fawlty Towers." His lawyer, Roderick Dakak, told the high court that Cleese did not tweak people's ears or routinely fly into manic or irrational rages and "the claim that in real life he resembles Basil Fawlty is absurd." Cleese, 49, accepted undisclosed "substantial" damages, to be donated to a charity of his choice, from publisher Robert Maxwell's Mirror group newspapers, the court said. The newspaper group also agreed to pay Cleese's legal costs and publish an apology, it said. The Daily Mirror reported in August 1987 that Cleese, a founding member of the "Monty Python" troupe, had got into the habit of painfully tweaking the ears of fellow cast members and flying into a rage when they objected during the filming of "A Fish Called Wanda."

Duke pays tribute to queen

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II once had a musical tribute composed just for her by Duke Ellington, but 31 years passed before it got its first live public performance. The queen's daughter, Anne, was guest of honour at a royal festival half benefit concert to hear the 15p-minute work, "The Queen's Suite," performed by U.S. musician Bob Wilber and his band.

"Duke was so overwhelmed at meeting with the queen in 1958 that he composed this longer orchestral work for her, recorded it with his band and instructed that only a single disc should be pressed, for the queen herself," Wilber said in a preconcert interview.

Gorriaran Merlo, however, escaped and went to Nicaragua. In published interviews, he said he led a team of Argentine and Nicaraguan guerrillas who assassinated Somoza in 1980 on a street in the Paraguayan capital of Asuncion. Somoza had been ousted by Nicaragua's leftist Sandinistas in 1979.

President Raul Alfonsin ordered the prosecution of Gorriaran Merlo shortly after taking office in December 1983.

Gorriaran Merlo was believed to be living abroad. Last year, a leftist human rights lawyer, Jorge Banos, asked the courts to allow Gorriaran Merlo to return and face trial without being imprisoned.

Police said among those killed in this week's assault was Banos. He and at least two other attackers whose names have been released by police were active in a leftist political group, the Everyone for the Country Movement.

CHICAGO (AP) — Hamlet directed his players to speak "trippingly on the tongue" but the latest players to tackle another of Shakespeare's tragic heroes, Othello, don't speak at all. "Silent Othello," the latest production of the four-year-old Italian American theatre, tells the tale of the Moor of Venice without the Bard's poetry, and also without sets or secondary characters. The five actors on the bare nightclub stage rely instead on mime, dance motions and traditional Italian gestures — most of them impolite. "We don't pretend it's Shakespeare, but you could consider it a mirror to Shakespeare," director Frank Melcori recently said after the first of six weekly performances. "We don't have the verbal techniques to do spoken Shakespeare, but we have other techniques we can use to tell a story," he said. "Othello is the cleanest, dramatically, of Shakespeare's tragedies. It's a fairly simple story of jealousy and revenge."

Woman loses job, then wins fortune

LONDON (AP) — A woman who lost her job Monday, and whose husband was facing unemployment, has become a millionaire two days later by winning big in the soccer pools. Sheila Marshall of Merton in central England, was due to get a check Wednesday for £634,000 (\$1,122,180) from the Littlewoods Organization. On Monday, Marshall had been told that the company where she had worked for nine years was closing. Her husband Alan also was facing unemployment because of the imminent closing of the coal mine where he works. The 49-year-old woman said she used the family's star signs — Gemini, Virgo and Pisces — to help pick the lucky numbers.

Turkish woman wins Soviet contest

MOSCOW (AP) — Meltem Hakarci of Turkey last week won the first international beauty contest held in Moscow, taking the "Charm '89" title over 28 other contestants from 11 countries. The contest, held at Moscow's Kosmos Hotel, was organized by the Soviet state-run travel agency Intourist, the hotel, a Soviet cultural centre and several other organizations. It drew contestants from Singapore, Greece, West Germany, Norway, as well as several from different parts of the Soviet Union.

## UNESCO hopeful U.S., U.K. will rejoin after policy change

MANILA (R) — The director-general of UNESCO, the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation said Friday he was optimistic the United States and Britain would soon announce plans to rejoin the body they quit in protest four years ago.

Federico Mayor Zaragoza said he had made drastic changes in UNESCO's goals and organization in the past year, eradicating

problems that prompted Washington and London to leave.

Mayor Zaragoza, a Spaniard, said one big change had been his removal last year of four UNESCO regional heads based in Egypt, Senegal, Thailand and Venezuela who were in Bow

appointed.

The head of UNESCO said since replacing m'bow in November 1987, he had saved \$22 million.



### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Bangladesh poll clashes kill 1

DHAKA (R) — One man was killed and over 100 people injured Thursday in clashes brought on by municipal election rivalries, police said. They said supporters of local candidates fought with home-made bombs, guns, spears and knives in many areas before the campaigning was officially ended Thursday midnight. The government earlier ordered police to crack down on unauthorized possession and use of explosives, firearms and other lethal weapons to ensure peaceful voting Saturday. At least 150 people were killed and hundreds injured in fierce clashes during rural elections in February, 1988, according to official figures.

#### Dutch free Nazi criminals

THE HAGUE (R) — The Dutch parliament voted Friday to release two Nazi war criminals imprisoned since World War II. The vote was 85 to 55 in favour of a pardon for Franz Fischer, 87, and Ferdinand aus der Fuenten, 79, who were convicted for sending thousands of Jews to their death during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. Once released from their 43-year-long imprisonment the two would be expelled to West Germany and would be "personae non gratae" in the Netherlands. Justice Minister Frederik Korthals Altes said. Usually, parliamentarians voted on an individual basis, showing deep divisions in all major political parties on an issue which has stirred an emotional public debate here. In the debate, Korthals Altes said the two war criminals should be freed because their further detention went against humane legal tradition and poisoned Dutch society.

#### Chun aide charged with abuse

SEOUL (R) — One of former South Korean strongman Chun Doo Hwan's most feared aides was charged Friday with extorting millions of dollars in political funds from industrialists, government prosecutors said. Chang Se-Dong, Chun's security chief and once rumoured to be his chosen successor, is accused of collecting the money to pay for a political institute Chun planned to use as a power base after he retired. Chang, who denies the charge, was taken to a prison outside Seoul. He was not handcuffed as South Korean prisoners usually are. He is the latest of dozens of people, including Chun relatives and former government officials, now in jail or facing trial over political and financial scandals involving millions of dollars during the disgraced leaders rule. Chun himself is under investigation by the opposition-dominated parliament over his role in a 1980 massacre in Kwangju. Troops killed nearly 200 civilians when they crushed an uprising Chun in the southwestern city.

#### Honduran chief killed

TEGUCIGALPA. Honduras (AP) — A former armed forces chief who helped the Reagan administration organise the Nicaraguan rebel forces in Honduras was ambushed and killed Wednesday, officials and witnesses said. Salvador Lobo, director of emergencies at the state hospital school, told reporters General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez died of gunshot wounds near his home in the capital's Florencia district. Witnesses said six gunmen waited for Alvarez Martinez outside his home and poured machine-guns fire into his car. The driver was also killed and Alvarez Martinez' son-in-law was wounded, police said. One witness, Alba Luz Guzman, told the AP the men "intercepted me, forced me to get out of my car, then fled in my automobile."

#### Cuba mortality rate ranks 22nd

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's infant mortality rate has dropped to 11.9 per 1,000 live births, ranking 22nd in the world and at the level of some industrialized countries, the official newspaper Granma said Wednesday. Calling infant mortality a "thermometer of social welfare," the daily said the rate was over 60 per 1,000 before the 1959 revolution, similar to the rates today in Brazil, El Salvador and Guatemala. Health care and education have been priorities of the Cuban socialist revolution. A rate of 11.9 per 1,000, compared with 13.3 in 1987, put Cuba first in Latin America and just behind the United States, with 10 per 1,000 live births, Italy and New Zealand with 11. Cuba was ahead of Greece, with 12 deaths per 1,000 live births, and Israel with 14, according to United Nations figures.

#### 100 criminals executed in China city

HONG KONG (AP) — Nearly 100 people were executed during the first 20 days of the year in China's southern province of Guangdong, where an alarming crime wave shows no sign of abating, a newspaper quoted Chinese officials Friday as saying. The death sentences given by local courts during the 20-day period was double the number during the same period last year, the independent Ming Pao daily quoted Mai Chongkai, the acting president of the provincial People's High Court, as saying.

## Hun Sen ends peace mission to Thailand

BANGKOK (R) — Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen Friday completed a visit to Thailand that turned into a propaganda coup in the ongoing efforts to bring peace to his country.

"We are building a cement bridge between the two countries instead of the bamboo bridge we have used for the past 10 years," he told reporters as he visited the Grand Palace, Bangkok's top tourist attraction.

He was due to fly home later after a three-day stay that included talks on a political settlement and on future economic and trade links. One Western diplomat here called it a "major propaganda victory."

For a decade Thailand has supported Khmer Rouge and other guerrilla groups fighting from the Thai-Kampuchean border to overthrow Hun Sen's communist government, installed after the 1978 Vietnamese invasion.

But a break in the international stalemate over Kampuchea which brought direct talks between



in static terms any more. What has been done 10 years ago cannot be told true if circumstances have changed."

He added: "The message our prime minister put across is that the real enemy of Kampuchea is poverty."

Although describing the two rounds of Hun Sen-Chatichai talks were as informal, Thai officials said they touched not only on ways to settle the conflict but also on future economic relations.

## London rejects inquiry clearing film on IRA

LONDON (AP) — The government insisted that a television documentary on three unarmed Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas slain in Gibraltar last year was untrue despite an independent inquiry that cleared the programme of unfairness allegations.

The continuing clash over the programme, "Death On The Rock," is the latest in a series of confrontations between Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative administration and television journalists.

The programme by Thames television, part of Britain's commercial independent television network, was shown seven weeks after a British anti-terrorist squad killed the IRA trio March 6, 1988. The government sought to suppress the documentary at the time.

A joint statement from Thatcher's office, the foreign office and the Ministry of Defence said Thursday night: "The programme contained many serious and damaging inaccuracies. In a number of important particulars, the

IRA supporters in Belfast in which nine people, including two British soldiers, died.

The mainly Roman Catholic IRA is fighting to end British rule in predominantly Protestant Northern Ireland and unite it with the Republic of Ireland, where 95 per cent of the people are Catholic.

Thatcher condemned the programme at the time as "trial by television." But the independent broadcasting authority in charge of commercial television rejected a government demand that the documentary's broadcast be postponed until after the inquest.

Amnesty International has demanded a judicial inquiry into the killing and civil libertarians claim the attack on the film is part of a broader government assault on news media freedom.

## Japan 'regrets' Tower's call for increased defence spending

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's defence chief expressed regret Friday over U.S. Defence Secretary-designate John Tower's call for pressure on Japan to increase its military spending.

Tower said the decision to impose on Japan a constitution that "severely restrained them from building a substantial military force" during the U.S. occupation of Japan at the end of World War II was "a lousy idea."

"But I don't believe that constitution is so restraining that they couldn't devote a substantially larger percentage (of spending) to their defence," Tower said.

The Japanese constitution, adopted in 1946 during the U.S. occupation, renounces war and forbids the use of force in settling international disputes. But Japan has been steadily building up its armed forces in recent years in response to heavy pressure from

the United States.

Acting U.S. Defence Secretary William Taft Thursday hailed Japan's increased allotment for defence in its budget for the next fiscal year.

"I commend the government of Japan for continuing to do what is necessary to meet Japan's defence goals and to positively support U.S. forces in Japan," he was quoted by Kyodo News Service as saying. "Given the continuing threat posed by Soviet forces in the Pacific, growth in Japan's defence and cost-sharing efforts is fully justified."